



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Joanne Sturges, Acting Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer

At its meeting held March 21, 2006, the Board took the following action:

75-B

Supervisor Knabe made the following statement:

“The Board of Supervisors is committed to providing each foster youth in Los Angeles County with an adult mentor. Foster children are among the neediest of the County’s youth and can derive great benefit from a strong mentoring relationship. A mentor can provide the additional support, guidance and friendship that are often lacking in a foster child’s life. With the aid of a healthy, trusting relationship between a committed, caring adult mentor and a foster youth, there is the promise of an easier and more successful transition out of the child welfare system to independence: a life with less uncertainty, free from homelessness, crime, and a better chance for the youth to become a happy productive citizen, who may one day mentor another vulnerable youth.

“Mentors freely donate their valuable time and skills to improve the well-being of deserving youth. However, conducting criminal background checks for potential mentors is costly, timely and creates a barrier to recruiting mentors. Assembly Bill 1979 (Bass) would waive the fees for conducting criminal background checks to any nonprofit agency that provides mentoring services for foster youth. Enactment of this legislation will facilitate recruiting and placing mentors with foster youth in Los Angeles County.”

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75-B (Continued)

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Knabe, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried, the Board took the following actions:

1. Went on record in support of Assembly Bill 1979 (Bass), legislation which would waive fees to conduct criminal background checks for any nonprofit agency that provides mentoring services for foster youth; and
2. Instructed the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to pursue the County's position to support AB 1979.

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Copies distributed:

Each Supervisor
County Counsel

Letter sent:

Assemblymember Karen Bass